

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL

BOSTON CITY COUNCILLORS CHARLES C. YANCEY & CHUCK TURNER

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO INDEPENDENCE DAY

- WHEREAS: Trinidad and Tobago gained its independence from Great Britain on August 31st, 1962 and became the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in 1976; And
- WHEREAS: Trinidad and Tobago had been occupied by the indigenous Amerindian tribes of the Arawaks and Caribs before Italian explorer Christopher Columbus landed on its shores in 1498; And
- WHEREAS: Trinidad was ruled by the Spanish from the 15th Century until the British captured it in 1797, and Tobago, by contrast, was ruled at one time or another by a variety of European powers, including the Spanish, Dutch, French and British; And
- WHEREAS: General elections in Trinidad and Tobago are held at least every 5 years; the democratic transfer of power is peaceful and routine. Legislative power lies with the House of Representatives with 41 elected members, and the Senate with 31 members appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition; And
- WHEREAS: The Judiciary is independent of the Government. This is guaranteed by the Constitution which provides for the entrenched protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. These rights are guaranteed to foreign investors, just as they are to Trinidad and Tobago nationals; And
- WHEREAS: Trinidad and Tobago comprises 5,128 square kilometers, which is about one and a half times the size of the state of Rhode Island. The territory enjoys a tropical climate with average maximum temperatures of 89°F; And
- WHEREAS: Trinidad and Tobago's population is about 1.3 million. Most Trinbagonians are of African or Indian descent, comprising 40 percent of the population each, while the remainder 20 percent of the population trace their history back to European, Chinese or Middle Eastern ancestry; And
- WHEREAS: Many from Trinidad and Tobago now reside in the City of Boston; Be It Therefore
- RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, pays tribute to Trinidad and Tobago on its Anniversary of Independence from Great Britain.



By: *Thomas P. Rosen*
President of the City Council

Attest: *Rosario A. Salerno*
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: *Charles C. Yancey*

Date: August 12th, 2009